
Strengthening Our Borders

The Facts:

- The U.S. shares 5,525 miles of border with Canada and 1,989 miles of border with Mexico in addition to 95,000 miles of shoreline.
- More than 500 million people cross our borders every year; of those, some 330 million are non-U.S. citizens.
- There is an estimated 11 million undocumented aliens living in the U.S.
- 16 million cargo containers enter the U.S. annually.

THE PROBLEM: The U.S. needs to increase control of the borders.

THE SOLUTION: A Multi-Pronged Strategy

- Increase the number of border patrol agents, immigration investigators and other personnel who enforce the nation's immigration laws;
- Ensure adequate training capacity to significantly increase the numbers of law enforcement personnel;
- Provide necessary hardware and infrastructure to assist agents, such as unmanned aerial vehicles, high-tech sensors and physical barriers;
- Improve technology, including technology to fully inspect cargo coming into the ports and technology to identify fraudulent documents; increase the capacity of the detention system to apprehend and remove illegal immigrants.
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Homeland Security Appropriations Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2006 Provides:

- \$31.86 billion for the operations and programs of the Department of Homeland Security.
- An increase of \$1.4 billion over the fiscal year 2005 level excluding advance appropriations for project BioShield and emergency supplemental appropriations made available in fiscal year 2005.
- Unprecedented funding and significant increases for a variety of programs to ensure that our borders are protected from those who wish to enter the country illegally and those who wish to seek legal paths to immigrate to this country for illicit purposes.

Strengthens the Nation's Borders:

- Provides \$9 billion for border protection, immigration enforcement, and related activities.

Improves Management:

- Includes provisions to improve the Management of the Department of Homeland Security.
- Requires the development of an integrated immigration enforcement strategy to reduce the illegal alien population by 10 percent a year.

Source: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Prepared by the Senate Republican Conference
Rick Santorum-Chairman, Kay Bailey Hutchison-Vice Chairman